No request has been received from the State Government regarding shortage of kerosene oil in Jharkhand.

Availability of oil and coal in Assam

1586. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is plenty of oil trapped in shale oil and coal in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have any plan to extract shale oil from these places; and

(c) if so, the details of Government policy and the strategy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) There are reported occurrences of oil shale associated with coal in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. No assessment has been made about oil reserves in shale/coal. Oil India Ltd. in past had undertaken R&D activity with the help of a foreign company however commerciality could not be established. Directorate General Hydrocarbons (DGH) has initiated action to take up studies on resource estimated of oil shale deposits and syncrude potential in North Eastern part of India.

Charging of high rate on luxury cars by tourist organisations

1587. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the big tourist organizations in the country operate their luxury cars on diesel while charging very high rate from their customers thus making huge profits;

(b) whether Government are aware that this practice adversely affects the interests of rural farmers for whom particularly cheaper diesel in meant; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider any proposal to put additional cess or excise duty on diesel purchased by the owners of luxury cars for purposes of tourism and if so, the details thereof?